ISSUE DATE: January 17, 2008

EXPIRATION DATE: February 18, 2008

US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Memphis District

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
and
Draft FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MEMPHIS DISTRICT

REPLY TO:
ATTN: John Rumancik
Environmental Branch (CEMVM-PM-E)
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894
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Fax: (901) 544-3955
E-mail: john.p.rumancik@mvm02.usace.army.mil

TITLE: Powe Ditch, Stoddard County, Missouri, Rock Weir Grade Control Structure

AUTHORITY: This project is authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950. As part of this Act, the Federal government is responsible for major maintenance of the constructed flood control features. The local sponsor has the responsibility of minor maintenance including mowing, removal of weeds, local drainage, and minor repairs. The local sponsor is also responsible for providing, without cost to the Federal government, all rights-of-way for the project.

LOCATION: The proposed rock weir grade control structure project is in Stoddard County about 8.0 miles southwest of the town of Powe, Missouri. The specific site would be located about 400 feet upstream of the confluence of Powe Ditch and the St. Francis River. The project location is found on the Broseley, MO, 1:24,000 Quadrangle map (Figure 1) and the enclosed aerial photograph (Figure 2).

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District is issuing this notice to update environmental coordination on the authorized project.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to arrest the channel headcutting and provide bank stabilization in Powe Ditch with a small rock weir grade control structure by armoring the banks and raising the ditch bottom elevation at the rock weir. If left unchecked, headcut scouring could continue upstream resulting in the unraveling of adjacent drainage ditches, and eventually impacting State Highway U.

ALTERNATIVES: Three alternatives were considered for this project.

Alternative 1: No Action: The no-action alternative is defined as termination of the project. Headcutting and bank scouring would continue. Headcutting would continue up tributary ditches, adversely impacting drainage. This also could eventually lead to public safety issues should Highway U be impacted. In addition, alterations to the St. Francis River could create adverse downstream impacts.

Alternative 2: Install a Hard Point Near the Mouth of Powe Ditch to Stop Headcutting: A small rock weir would armor the banks and ditch bottom with rock, and slightly raise the bottom elevation of Powe Ditch. This would create a hard point to arrest the headcutting so that it does not continue moving upstream and into tributary ditches. The weir would also prevent future bank failures.

Alternative 3: Install a Sheet Pile Hard Point Near the Mouth of Powe Ditch to Stop Headcutting: Metal sheet piles would be driven into the earth across the entire width of Powe Ditch. This would be more costly to construct than using rock to build a weir. In addition, the banks and ditch bottom would not be armored sufficiently enough to prevent downstream bank erosion, thus creating a greater bank stabilization problem that what presently exists.

Consequently, Alternative 2; construct the hard point and armor the banks, is the only feasible alternative.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The channel banks at this project site are nearly vertical and 25 feet deep. The top bank width is about 60 feet. Almost all of the bank sides are overgrown with thick vegetation of grasses, vines, and saplings that sprouted from the stumps of previously cut small trees. About 60 linear feet of both ditch banks would be graded and shaped back making a new top bank width at the weir of about 160 feet. The excavated material would be deposited in one pile about 180 feet away on the north side of the ditch, on cropland that is on the slope of the existing excavated material embankment from earlier St. Francis River work. The new disposal area dimensions would be about 120 feet x 150 feet, and 10 feet high at its thickest. Approximately 3,640 cubic yards of material would be excavated. All exposed soil would be seeded in a grass cover to prevent erosion. Approximately 304 tons of limestone filter material would be laid down in the channel, first. Then about 6,150 tons of R650 limestone riprap rock would be placed on top of the filter gravel for bank stabilization to complete the rock weir grade control structure.

WETLANDS AND WATER QUALITY: No wetlands would be impacted. This project meets the criteria of Nationwide Permit 13 for bank stabilization. No Section 404(b)(1) evaluation is required.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Memphis District biologists conducted an endangered mussel survey on November 14, 2007. No mussels of any species were found. No other endangered species were observed or are known to occur within the project area. This project is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments they may have regarding general impacts to wildlife and endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitats, will be considered in our environmental assessment.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Memphis District archaeologists conducted a cultural resources survey of the project site on November 30, 2007. Their findings were negative. Based on this survey, the District Archaeologist determined there would be no adverse cultural resources impacts with construction. He

concluded that no further cultural work would be required for this project unless the scope of work or project rights-of-way change. However, should deeply buried artifacts or other site indicators be uncovered during construction, the Memphis District Archeologist, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Federally Recognized Tribes, and the Missouri State Archeological Office will be immediately notified to ensure compliance with all Federal and state laws and regulations. A copy of the draft EA and Public Notice will be sent to the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the proposed activity, and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest. This notice is being circulated to Federal, State and local environmental agencies.

The decision to construct this project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The potential benefits of the activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All potential direct, indirect and cumulative affects of the activity will be considered including: economics, aesthetics, general environmental navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to proceed with the proposed action. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of the Final Environmental Assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. **The Draft Environmental Assessment has been completed and will be circulated to agencies and any other party that responds to this notice requesting a copy. A copy has been placed on the District's website at:**

http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/regulatory/public-notices/pn.htm

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed project. Requests for a public hearing shall clearly state the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed in order to reach a decision on the project. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work.

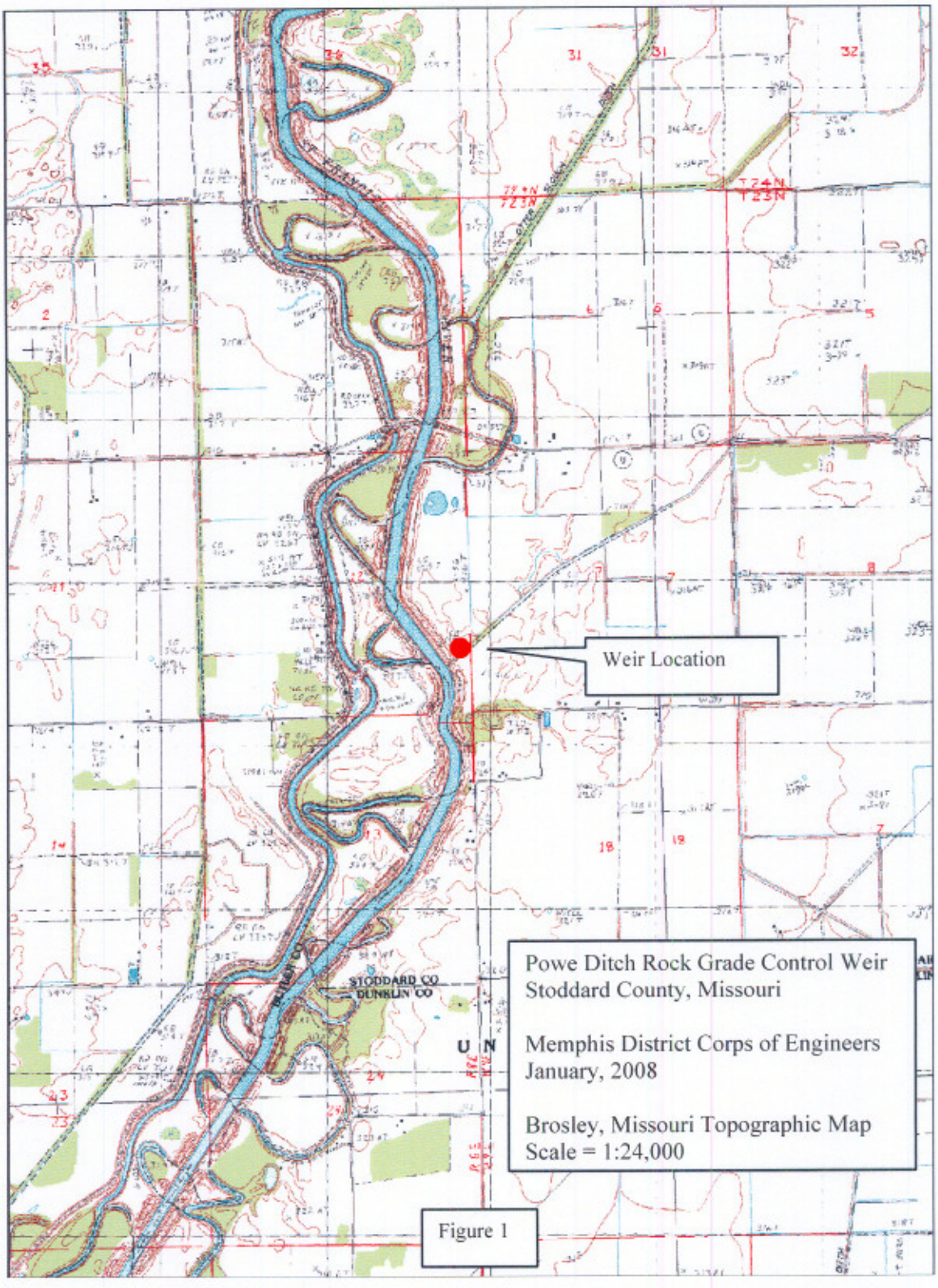
COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you wish to obtain additional information or to submit comments on this proposal, please contact John Rumancik at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Branch (PM-E), 167 North Main Street RM B-202, Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894, at 901/544-3975. **Comments should be forwarded to this office by February 18, 2008.**

Sincerely,

Edward P. Lambert

Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Enclosures


Weir Location
Powe Ditch Rock Grade Control Weir
Stoddard County, Missouri
Memphis District Corps of Engineers
January, 2008
Brosley, Missouri Topographic Map
Scale = 1:24,000
Figure 1

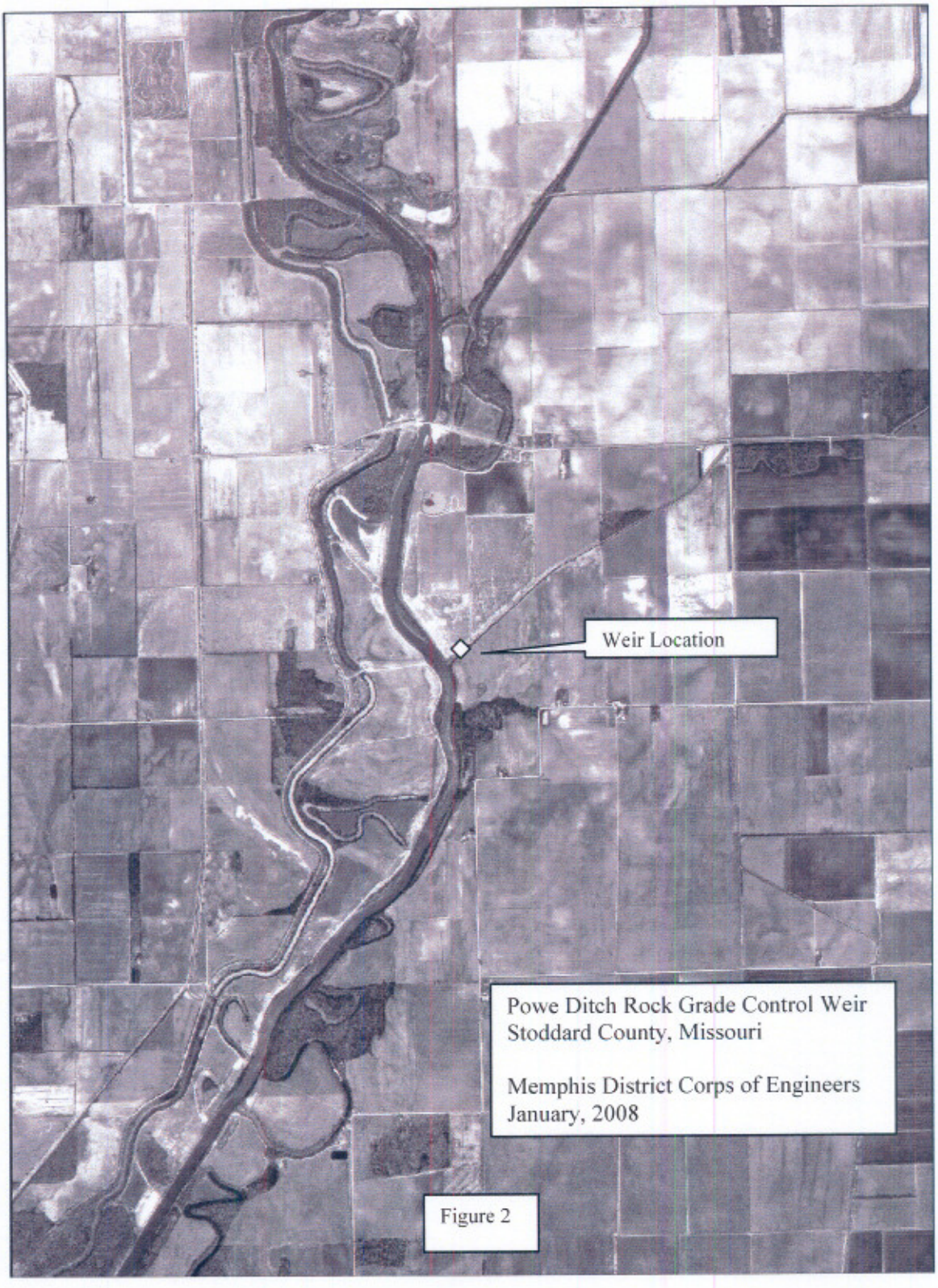

Weir Location
Powe Ditch Rock Grade Control Weir
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Figure 2